

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1230 - HB 1320

March 10, 2013

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Removes the requirement that judges who are retained, appointed, or elected after September 1, 2013, be licensed to practice law.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – It cannot be reasonably determined whether the bill will result in persons lacking knowledge about current law and court rules serving as judges. There is the potential for the backlogging of court dockets that could result in delayed court administration or the need for additional judges. An additional judge, regardless of court, would result in increased recurring expenditures exceeding \$200,000.**

Assumptions:

- Under the bill, individuals who are not licensed attorneys could serve as judges.
- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, the bill could result in persons untrained in Tennessee law serving as judges. The complexity of current law and court rules would limit the ability of a non-lawyer to operate court as efficiently as a licensed attorney. This could potentially lead to backlogged dockets and require additional judges.
- Based on current salaries, benefits, research, office space, and administrative assistant costs the estimated increase for an additional judge at any state or local level is estimated to exceed \$200,000.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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